

BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, June 29, 1995 - Beverly Garland Hotel, Sacramento, CA

Welcome and Introductions

Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) members were welcomed to the first BDAC meeting by the Chairperson, Mike Madigan. BDAC members were also welcomed by Michael Mantell, California Resources Agency, on behalf of the Governor and the Water Policy Council, and David Cottingham, on behalf of the Department of the Interior and the Administration. The designated State and Federal officials, Michael Mantell and Roger Patterson, Bureau of Reclamation, were also introduced. Mike Madigan provided some comments about the structure of the meetings focussing on the need to adhere to a tight time schedule and the need to provide as much opportunity for public comment as possible. He also introduced Lester Snow as the Executive Director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, and Lester introduced the Program staff. Each BDAC member introduced himself/herself and provided a brief biography.

Overview of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Lester Snow provided a brief presentation outlining the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The presentation focussed on the activities leading up to the present effort, the present structure, and the general approach to address the problems of the Bay-Delta Estuary. Questions focussed on the time frame, how BDOC (Bay Delta Oversight Council) outputs will be utilized, and the structure for addressing the problems. The time frame for the first year was developed to make the program as responsive as possible to both the three year December Accord and a realistic yet aggressive time frame. In addressing how BDOC outputs will be utilized, Lester stressed that outputs from BDOC will not function as the starting point in this process, however, they are an important reference and will be incorporated along with many other reference materials and studies. In answering the question about structure, Lester indicated that the program will go through the process sequentially, i.e. first addressing mission, then goals, objectives and performance criteria. We must agree and gain consensus on the problems the program will address before we try to develop solutions.

Lester also provided a presentation describing the role and responsibilities of the BDAC. The first question from BDAC members related to the issue of scope and how we define our scope. Lester deferred the question of scope until the discussion under the Bay-Delta Program Issues. Another question was how BDAC will actually make recommendations. BDAC will provide ongoing advise as the program is developed. A significant role for BDAC is identifying the strength and weakness of proposals as they are developed from concept to draft to final report. Another BDAC member inquired as to the role of BDAC members at the technical workshops that the Program Team intends to hold. Lester indicated that we would invite and encourage BDAC members to attend these workshops and participate, however, the workshops would not be convened and conducted by BDAC.

Tom Graff presented an oral statement and provided a written statement with attachments (letter from Environmental Defense Fund to the Central Valley Project Authority and a statement by Senator Barbara Boxer).

Review of the Plan of Action

Steve Yaeger, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, presented an overview of the Plan of Action which had been previously provided to BDAC members. Some members of BDAC were concerned with the phased approach that will be utilized. Lester indicated that phases were very important and each phase must be balanced. Phasing allows adaptive management in implementation. Other concerns included how BDAC is involved with meaningful public comment from constituency groups. It was discussed that public involvement will be included through four elements: public workshops, day long work sessions which are oriented toward people with knowledge of the Bay-Delta issues; public meetings, regional meetings which are held for the general public, public attendance and comment at BDAC meetings; involvement through publication and a speakers bureau. As BDAC members become aware of constituency groups who may need more information, they should inform CALFED Program staff who will update these groups. Other issues included how we will get information out to the public on workshops and meetings and where they will be held. A master schedule of workshops and meetings is being prepared and the program team will develop a mailing list to ensure that all interested parties will be informed.

A break for lunch was taken from 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

Discussion of Initial Program Components

The presentation on Bay-Delta Program Issues included a discussion by Judy Kelly on a draft Mission Statement and a discussion by Lester Snow on geographic scope. Discussion by BDAC members on the mission statement focussed on whether objectives need to be developed before the mission statement is finalized or after. Most felt that a good mission statement is necessary before objectives can be developed. Other comments on the mission statement included the need to change "improved ecosystem" to "sustainable ecosystem".

In the presentation outlining the geographic scope of the study, Lester detailed the differences between the geographic scope of the problems (smaller area confined to the Delta) and the geographic scope of solutions (much larger area throughout California). A question from BDAC focussed on how the South Delta project facilities fit in the process and how they figure in the baseline. Lester indicated that the Department of Water Resources has an ongoing process with South Delta facilities.

Operating Procedures

Sharon Gross reviewed the draft Operating Procedures for the BDAC. Substantial discussion focussed on consensus and a voting protocol. Several BDAC members stressed that we need to do our best to identify zones of agreement with an emphasis on reaching consensus. If consensus is not reached, we at least need to identify which areas and issues have agreement and which do not. This issue concerning voting was not resolved and will be discussed at the next BDAC meeting.

Meetings will be held every other month at least through December. BDAC meeting dates have been set for August 16, October 12 (NOTE - has been changed to October 18), and December 6, 1995. BDAC members were asked to send a letter of acceptance (if they have not already done so) to Lester Snow.

Public Comment

Four persons indicated that they wished to speak during the public comment period.

Nat Bingham - Pacific Coast Fisherman - He is supportive of the process outlined and encourages the BDAC to think in a comprehensive manner (don't separate and fractionate) and consider how the system historically functioned. He also encouraged the BDAC to move forward and make every attempt to reach consensus on important issues.

Ed Petry - Mendota - He complimented the former BDOC process on their progress. He highlighted concerns about the San Joaquin area water quality and the need to finish the San Luis drain. He also emphasized the need to keep flow in the San Joaquin River and increase storage in the upper confluence.

John Mardowski - Wickland Oil - He expressed concerns about the need to deepen ship channels in San Pablo Bay by dredging and hopes that project will be considered in this process.

Gary Bobker - Bay Institute - He expressed concerns that the mission statement needs to be stronger and our goals should be higher. We shouldn't limit ourselves. We should also be broader in our consideration of geographic scope to ensure that we encompass all public trust values.

Other

For the next BDAC meeting, the following materials will be sent in advance:

- Final Plan of Action
- Draft Mission Statement
- Draft Problem Statement
- Draft Goals and Objectives
- Summary material from first public workshop